

It's Smart To Be Gallery Wise!

THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

AND ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

NEWS FLASHES

October 1,

1937

LOAN EXHIBITION: The October Show, which will fill the three Loan Galleries, will be one of the most important of the season. Devoted to "Artists West of the Mississippi", it is an invitation exhibition arranged by the Director of the Colorado Springs Art Center and is being circulated to several Mid-Western and Pacific Coast Museums.

Mr. Lothrop, who personally selected most of the canvases, has expressed the purpose as follows: "The ultimate aim of this present exhibition is to bring together a group of paintings representing the best that is being done west of the Mississippi, and it is our belief that such a show is more expressive of American art and freer from contemporary European influences than most exhibitions collected in the East".

Forty eight artists are represented, most of them by one canvas, from the states of California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming. There is a fine balance of more mature painters, many of whom have had European training, and younger men who in many cases are their students. It is by no means a complete picture of the art that is being produced in the western half of the United States, but most of the significant painters and those who have attained national importance are included.

Henry Varnum Poor, Kansas-born and one of the finest painters to come from this section of the country, has written a very penetrating survey of the exhibition. In part, he says: "This show is proof that a very real decentralization of American painting has taken place. A very few years ago no show of comparable merit could have been gathered in the West." In speaking of the men represented he says: "These men, most of them European trained, but now returned to the West for their own greater spiritual health, furnish the real strength for this Western show. They have not, like some foolish American-conscious critics, denied the revolutionary importance of modern French painting. Their work is largely based upon and vitalized by that movement. There is no such thing in this group as really indigenous, up from the soil western painting, and there can be no such thing. The Westerners have traveled, and even those who have not, have the world in their homes through photographs and reproductions."

There is an impressive roster of names that includes Barse Miller, Paul Sample, Millard Sheets, Frank Mechau, Boardman Robinson, Albert Bloch, John Stuart Curry, Karl Mattern, Henry Varnum Poor, Russell Cowles, Andrew Dasburg, Randall Davey, Ward Lockwood, B. J. Nordfeldt, David McCosh, Alexander Hogue, and Everett Spruce. Missouri is represented by Lawrence Adams, Thomas Hart Benton, Joe Jones, John de Martelly, Joseph Meert, and Frederick Shane. In speaking of the contribution of Benton, Poor says: "Among the sketches for his Missouri murals I think that the small horizontal compositions are the finest things of his I have ever seen, and his large portrait of Carl Ruggles (presented to the Gallery by the Friends of Art) is a real masterpiece of composition".

The exhibition will open on Sunday, October the third and will continue through the month.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES: The Wednesday Evening openings will be resumed on October 6th, but the winter lecture season will not begin until one week later, on the evening of the 13th.

The opening lecture on Wednesday Evening, October 13th, will be devoted to the monthly loan exhibition of "Artists West of the

October 1, 1937

Mississippi". The discussion will be given by the Director and the paintings themselves will be used as illustrations.

This year the Wednesday evening lectures will be devoted in main to a survey of Sculpture, both European and Oriental, and will be given primarily by the Director and the Curator of the Oriental Department. Since the opening of the Gallery, important additions have been made in the field of sculpture, and now that department has assumed a size and importance in most periods that justifies a course of study in it. As an expression of art, sculpture was perhaps over-shadowed in the nineteenth century by the great contributions and the vast output in the field of painting. It is only in the present century that its popularity has been revived and its entirely satisfactory qualities are again being appreciated.

On Wednesday Evening, October 20th, the first of the series of sculpture lectures will be given by the Director, and the subject will be Egyptian Sculpture. The art of this country is an ideal one to begin such a course, not only because it is the oldest from the point of view of civilization, but also during its forty centuries of existence, it remained fairly consistent and an outstanding expression of the effect of its environment.

The second lecture of the series will be given on Wednesday Evening, the 27th, when Mr. Sickman will have as his subject, Mesopotamian Sculpture. Its evolution through the city states of Sumer and Achad will be traced as exemplified in the great palaces of Ninevah and Babylon. While there is some Egyptian influence to be noted in this period, it is most important as a background for the study of Greek sculpture.

As has been the custom in the past, there is no admission charge to either the Gallery or the lectures on Wednesday Evenings.

FRIDAY EVENING OPENINGS: In an endeavor to make the facilities of the Gallery available to a large public, the Trustees are planning an experimental opening on Friday Evenings for the month of October, beginning October 8th. This will be in addition to the regular Wednesday Evening openings. The Gallery will be open from seven until nine o'clock without admission charge. There will be no formal lecture on these evenings, but a member of the staff will be present to conduct a tour through certain sections of the collection at 8 o'clock, for which also there will be no charge made. The subject of the gallery tour for October 8th will be announced later.

It is hoped that there will be a large enough response from this experiment to justify a regular Friday Evening opening of the Gallery in addition to the Wednesday Evenings. In a number of letters to the Director, Friday has been suggested as an ideal evening when many visitors can take advantage of this facility. It is hoped also that the value of the gallery tours and the opportunity they will present to become acquainted with the Gallery collection will appeal to a large group.

MASTERPIECE OF THE MONTH: For October, the Masterpiece will be a fine early canvas by the great Impressionist, Claude Monet, which has been lent to the Gallery from the Laura Nelson Kirkwood Residuary Trust. "View of Argenteuil", it depicts that small manufacturing town just outside Paris. A very typical snow scene, it represents Monet at an early date, perhaps 1879-80, before he became so obsessed with light and atmosphere. In an evaluation of the work of Monet, all critics feel that his best work was produced in his early period, and the Gallery is fortunate to have this outstanding example which fills an important gap in its collection of French painting.

EARLY GERMAN WOODCUTS: Gallery XV has been installed with a group of German 15th century coloured woodcuts, from the permanent collection. Several of these are unique sheets, that is, the only example known, and many are from contemporary books such as Bibles, lives of saints and chronicles of 15th century life and manners.

October 1, 1937

Most of these small prints were the paintings of the poorer classes, and the colour was often applied in the workshop that produced them, or by monks. They are delightful and naive comments on that most interesting period in Germany, and are primarily of religious subject matter.

PORTRAIT OF AMELIA EARHART: Through the kind offices of Congressman U. S. Guyer, the artist Howard Chandler Christy has lent to the Gallery his recent portrait of the late Amelia Earhart. It presents a somewhat idealized portrait of the great aviatrix, and will be of especial interest in view of her intimate association with Kansas and Missouri in her youth. It has been installed in Gallery XIII and will remain here until the end of October.

FRIENDS OF ART: The activities of the Friends of Art will recommence in October. The Wednesday morning study group will be resumed and will meet again on the first and third Wednesdays, at eleven o'clock, in the Library. The first meeting will be held this fall on Wednesday, October 20th, when the Director will discuss with the members the paintings in the loan exhibition of "Artists West of the Mississippi". It is an especially important and comprehensive show and it is hoped that all members will take advantage of this opportunity to become conversant with this phase of contemporary painting.

STUDY GROUPS: The Gallery again wants to call to the attention of study groups, the facilities of its many departments. We shall be glad to arrange courses for clubs or such groups, either to be conducted by members of the staff or merely to suggest study schedules. There is no charge for this, other than the usual admission fee. Already a number of groups have taken advantage of this facility, and the Secretary, Miss Jackson, will be happy to give any desired information. This is an extremely pleasant way to become acquainted with our superb permanent collection.

CO-OPERATIVE ARTISTS GROUP: Of special interest and one that merits the support of all interested in art, is the new venture of a group of younger artists from this section of the country. They have opened an exhibition gallery at 710 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas, where co-operative exhibitions and small one-man shows of the artists of the group will be displayed and where sales can be accomplished. The first exhibition has already opened, and it presents a fine and comprehensive picture of what the younger artists in our immediate vicinity are doing in painting, sculpture, and prints.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES: The winter session of Children's Classes will begin on Saturday, October 2nd, to continue every Saturday until the 30th of April. Registrations for children from seven to eighteen years of age, for classes in drawing, clay modeling, Indian crafts, general activities, and marionettes, will be received at the sales desk at the Gallery entrance this week. The total enrollment is limited and the fee for the entire winter session is one dollar.

The Game Tray. There will be new games on the game tray in Kirkwood Hall on Saturdays for any young visitor to enjoy. Drawing for Fun - another free activity which does not require enrollment - will be continued at 2:30 on Saturday afternoons during the winter.

The Little Museum. The Little Museum for Young Moderns announces the opening of a new exhibition on October 2nd. The exhibit of Mexican objects, which has been enjoyed by visitors during the summer months, will be replaced by a display of Hobbies. Hobby collections of the members of the staff and friends of the Little Museum are varied and interesting. Each collector is arranging his or her own treasures which range from dolls, stamps, and model airplanes, to the finely turned objects from one young craftsman's lathe.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERTS: The Gallery is happy to announce that the Sunday afternoon concerts in the Atkins Auditorium will be continued this season. The members of Tau Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota, who have given us such splendid programs for the past several seasons, will again present a concert on the third Sunday of each month. The first of the series will be given on Sunday.

October 1, 1937

October 17th, at three-thirty o'clock and will feature Paul Fraser, dramatic tenor, as guest artist. Other numbers will be given by Dorothy Hendina, violinist, accompanied by the string ensemble, Dorothy Chandler, Pianist, and Lena Katherine Alton, soprano.

On Sunday, October 24th, Miss Edna Forsyth and Mrs. Lois Black Hunt will present several young artists from their studios in a program of voice and piano.

STAFF ACTIVITIES: Mr. Otto Wittmann, Jr., Registrar, has been granted a leave of absence to continue study at the Fogg Museum at Harvard University. Mr. Wittmann was granted a Carnegie Scholarship for study there this past summer, and will return to work primarily in the field of prints and drawings.

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

- Sat., Oct. 2, - Saturday Classes for Children Begin.
- Sun., " 3, - Opening of Loan Exhibition - "Artists West of the Mississippi"
- Wed., " 6, - Gallery Open 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. - No Lecture
- Fri., " 8, - Gallery Open 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Gallery Tour 8 p.m.
- Wed., " 13, - Lecture at 8 p.m. in Atkins Auditorium - "Artists West of the Mississippi" - Mr. Gardner
- Fri., " 15, - Gallery Open 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Gallery Tour 8 p.m.
- Sun., " 17, - Concert - 3:30 - Atkins Auditorium
- Wed., " 20 - Library - 11 a.m. - Friends of Art Study Class
- Wed., " 20 - Lecture at 8 p.m. in Atkins Auditorium - "Egyptian Sculpture" - Mr. Gardner
- Fri., " 22 - Gallery Open 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Gallery Tour 8 p.m.
- Sun., " 24 - Concert - 3:30 - Atkins Auditorium
- Wed., " 27 - Lecture at 8 p.m. in Atkins Auditorium - "Mesopotamian Sculpture" - Mr. Sickman
- Fri., " 30 - Gallery Open 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Gallery Tour 8 p.m.

William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art
Kansas City, Missouri

Permit Sec.
562 PL&R

Return Postage Guaranteed

Postmaster: If addressee has removed and the new address is known, notify sender on Form 3547, postage for which is guaranteed.